

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates.

Consumers have been ill-served by the tendency toward concentrating the control of news and other outputs in the hands of a few mega-corporate interests. Spurious arguments about economies of scale should not be allowed to effectively override the First Amendment. Corporate control of the public agenda and debate is already threatening the free flow of ideas in the U.S. and much of the world. Now, the open debate and dialogue necessary to democratic society are in grave danger of being crushed, at a time when they are perhaps more essential than at any time in U.S. history.

It is imperative that the FCC be vigilant and vigorous in maintaining ownership diversity in the media. Please heed the voices of ordinary citizens. Please protect our First Amendment rights. Please don't silence us.